

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims as follows:

Claims 1-23 (Canceled)

24. **(Currently amended)** A method of determining whether an individual is ~~or has been~~ infected with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, said method including the step of ~~using~~ subjecting a biological sample obtained from said individual to nucleic acid sequence amplification using one or more oligonucleotides under conditions which facilitate amplification of said isolated porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, if present in said biological sample, to produce an amplification product comprising a nucleotide sequence comprising residues 681-812 of SEQ ID NO:10 ~~one or more oligonucleotides to detect said isolated porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, if present in a biological sample obtained from said individual, wherein a presence of said amplification product porA nucleic acid indicating that said individual is or has been infected with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, wherein said one or more oligonucleotides are not capable of hybridizing to a porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria meningitidis* sufficiently to enable detection of said porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria meningitidis* if present in said biological sample.~~

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said method includes the step of distinguishing said isolated porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* from a porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria meningitidis* present in said biological sample.

26. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim ~~[[25]]~~ **24**, wherein said porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* is distinguished from another *Neisseria* species other than *N. meningitidis*.

27-28. (Canceled).

29. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim ~~[[28]]~~ **24**, wherein nucleic acid sequence amplification is performed under conditions which facilitate amplification of said isolated porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* to a detectable level but which

do not facilitate amplification of ~~[[said]]~~ a *porA* nucleic of *N. meningitidis* to a detectable level.

30. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 29, wherein nucleic acid sequence amplification is performed using one or more PCR primers ~~having~~ comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2.

31. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim ~~[[27]]~~ 24, further including the step of using wherein said one or more oligonucleotides ~~comprise a probes~~ for detecting said amplification product by probe hybridization.

32. **(Canceled).**

33. **(Currently amended)** The method of ~~[[32]]~~ 31, wherein the probe ~~is~~ has comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:4.

34. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 31, wherein detection of said amplification product is performed using fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET).

35. **(Currently amended)** A method of determining whether a human individual is ~~or~~ has been infected with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, said method including the steps of:

(i) subjecting a biological sample obtained from said human individual to nucleic acid sequence amplification using primers ~~having respective~~ comprising nucleotide sequences selected from the group consisting of according to SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2, to produce a *porA Neisseria gonorrhoeae* amplification product from a *Neisseria gonorrhoeae porA* nucleic acid if present in said biological sample; and

(ii) detecting said amplification product, if present, by probe hybridization and fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) using oligonucleotides ~~having~~ respective comprising nucleotide sequences according to SEQ ID NO:3 having a donor fluorophore and SEQ ID NO:4 having an acceptor fluorophore, whereby a

presence of said porA amplification product indicates that said individual is ~~or has been~~ infected with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*.

36-47. (Cancel).

48. (New) A method of determining whether an individual is infected with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, said method including the step of detecting a nucleotide sequence of an isolated porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, if present in a biological sample obtained from said individual, wherein a presence of said nucleotide sequence indicating that said individual is infected with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, wherein said nucleotide sequence is of an amplification product obtainable by nucleic acid sequence amplification using PCR primers having a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2.

49. (New) The method of claim 48, further including the step of using one or more oligonucleotide probes for detecting said amplification product by probe hybridization.

50. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein the one or more oligonucleotide probes comprise a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:4.

51. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein detection of said amplification product is performed using fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET).

52. (New) The method of claim 24, including the step of subjecting the amplification product to nucleotide sequencing.

53. (New) The method of claim 48, including the step of subjecting the amplification product to nucleotide sequencing.